



Genesee County

2014 ANNUAL REPORT



MESSAGE FROM THE DISTRICT COORDINATOR

MSU Extension (MSUE) staff strive to provide programming that has a positive impact on the citizens of Genesee County while making the best use of the local, state and federal funds that have been generously provided for the completion of this work. Extension Educators and program staff continue to look for ways to streamline program delivery systems to make our programs accessible for all county residents. Advancements in technology have enabled MSUE to provide access to programs and resources in a more timely and efficient manner. Still, our presence in county offices across the state allows us to remain connected to communities we serve, which gives us a better understanding of local programmatic needs.



This report is intended to provide an overview of the wide array of programming opportunities that have been provided to the residents of Genesee County over the last year. Thank you for your continued support of MSU Extension programs in Genesee County.

Deanna East, District Coordinator, District 9

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MEASURING OUTREACH

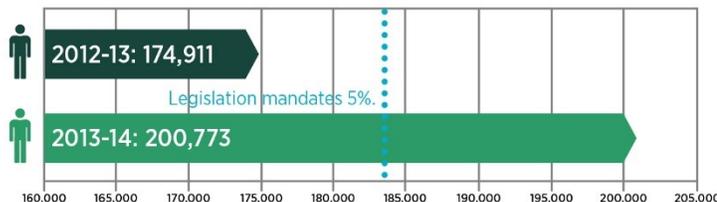
CONNECTING WITH RESIDENTS

4-H Children and Youth Programs.....	3,243
4-H Members (Traditional Club Enrollment.....)	257
Special Interest Program Participation.....	2,986
4-H Adult Volunteers.....	101
Genesee County Master Gardener Volunteers.....	150
Greening Michigan Programs	3,443
Health and Nutrition Programs.....	2,881
Agriculture and Agribusiness Programs.....	3,444
TOTAL OUTREACH.....	13,262

15% Growth in Adults Participating in MSU Extension Programs



16% Growth in Youth Participating in MSU Extension Programs



MSU Extension's Expanded Digital Reach



2 million visitors viewed more than 4 million pages



560,000 topic newsletters distributed to more than 8,500 email addresses



Nearly 2,000 Facebook and more than 1,700 Twitter followers

Based on data from July 1, 2013 to June 30, 2014.

DEVELOPING YOUTH AND COMMUNITIES

When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, youth participants learn life skills that prepare them for the workforce – especially for highly sought after jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Extension programs help children develop early literacy skills that support school readiness. They learn leadership and decision-making skills in 4-H that increase their likelihood of becoming civically active. 4-H'ers also demonstrate reduced high-risk behaviors such as drug use, and learn to complete tasks, solve problems and seek any help they might need from peers and adults. 4-H involvement also helps participants avoid or reduce involvement with the court system. This helps ensure more young people succeed in school, attend college and contribute to their communities. More successful young people in communities results in greater tax revenues and consumer spending and increases the likelihood that young people will stay in, or return to, their communities.

RELAX Alternatives to Anger

The goal of RELAX is to help young people, parents and caregivers foster healthy relationships so they can live, learn and grow in safe, affirming and fair environments free from violence, abuse, bullying and harassment. Participants learn how to better manage their anger and stress at home in the workplace. Over 100 Genesee County parents and caregivers attended a RELAX program.

Genesee County 4-H Clubs

4-H Clubs are the foundation of every successful 4-H Program. They provide volunteers and youth with unlimited opportunities for learning, relationship building and fun. 4-H Clubs can take many different forms. They can be single project clubs, afterschool or in-school clubs, or community clubs. Regardless of the structure, the primary purpose of 4-H Clubs is to support the development of each youth participant's full potential. The club structure is designed to help volunteers and members build significant and lasting relationships. In 2014, Genesee County had 257 members in 4-H Clubs.

4-H Summer Camp at Camp Neyati

In partnership with Shiawassee County 4-H, Genesee County 4-H youth participated in 4-H Camp held at Camp Neyati located on Crooked Lake in Lake Station on June 28-30, 2014. Campers enjoyed arts, crafts, archery, swimming, boating, games, nature, science, dancing, basic structural design and making new friends. Campers develop their independence in a camp setting and through participating in a variety of activities.

When you support MSU Extension 4-H programs, youth participants learn life skills that prepare them for the workforce – especially for highly sought after jobs in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM).



Because Michigan 4-H is part of MSU Extension, the activities youth participate in are all research based. We use experiential learning and time spent intentionally thinking about what's been learned to make it a meaningful experience, with skills and ideas learned that last a lifetime.

Developing Youth and Communities, continued

Supporting STEM careers through youth programming

The future of Michigan lies, in part, in the hands of its students' abilities to excel in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM). Science literacy among school-aged youth in Michigan is below the national average, directly impacting college readiness. In the U.S. today, many job openings for STEM-related positions go unfilled due to a lack of qualified applicants.

MSU Extension provides resources aligned with Michigan science education standards to teach confidence, leadership and responsibility related to STEM. MSUE staff have provided the following workshops to over 1,500 youth in the community: Science Saturdays, Flint River Green, Aquatic Invertebrate, Bee Symposium, Water Quality Monitoring, Girls in Science, Edible Bugs, and Pollination and Apples. Workshops and presentations were held at MSU Extension Genesee office, Applewood Fall Harvest Festival, Longway Planetarium, Beecher Schools, Mt. Morris Schools, International Academy of Flint, Grand Blanc Academy, New Creation Church of God, Perani Arena, and Genesee County Fair.

Citizenship Academy

Genesee County 4-H youth participated in an annual Citizenship Academy to experience the county government process. The hands-on approach affects how youth see their communities and underlines the need to be responsible citizens. This service learning opportunity allows youth to engage in the inner-workings of county government through interacting with County Commissioners, County Controller and Department Heads while examining concerns from their unique perspective.

Captiol Experience

Participants in Citizenship Academy have the opportunity to attend the Captiol Experience conference to learn how State government works. Youth are able to examine a current policy from a variety of perspectives. In addition, youth are able to visit State Senators and Representatives, and participate in activities designed to reinforce and apply what they have learned about government.

Exploration Days

Explorations Days, a 3-day event on MSU's campus in June, is designed to help youth learn new ideas and techniques, increase their interest in and readiness for college, explore career options, and develop their decision making, independence and teamwork skills. They also meet and interact with others from different backgrounds and areas throughout Michigan.

In the U.S. today, many job openings for science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) -related positions go unfilled due to a lack of qualified applicants.

4-H youth are 4 times more likely to make contributions to their communities, 2 times more likely to be civically active, make healthier choices, and participate in STEM activities during out-of-school time.

Youth are gaining life skills such as leadership, planning and teamwork, while adults are learning about the information about the needs, concerns and issues that pertain to youth.



Developing Youth and Communities, continued

Preparing children for academic success

Youth who are not proficient readers by fourth grade are 68 percent more likely to drop out of high school. Research shows that young children who develop literacy skills prior to entering kindergarten are better prepared to learn to read. In Michigan, there is an educational standard to ensure children from birth to 8 years old have access to learning and development programs.

MSU Extension is also making learning to read more accessible by putting books into the hands of thousands of children in families living in low-income situations.

Molina Book Distribution

MSU Extension staff secured over 250,000 books from the Molina Foundation to be placed in the hands of under privileged youth and enhance literacy levels for Michigan's children. MSU Extension staff distributed books around Genesee County at a variety of events.

» As a result of MSU Extension trainings and workshops, adults indicated an increase in knowledge of concepts of early childhood development and techniques that promote school readiness and academic success.

Youth influencing community decisions with support from adults

More than 20 percent of the U.S. population is between the ages of 5 and 19. These youth look to adults for guidance in various situations. As youth become more involved, whether in academic or community settings, they search for ways in which their voices can be heard. Youth voice is a resource that often goes untapped in communities. MSU Extension provides training through Michigan 4-H for internal and external groups to consider the value of youth-adult partnerships in the decision-making process.

Youth are gaining life skills such as leadership, planning and teamwork, while adults are learning information about the needs, concerns and issues that pertain to youth.

Local 4-H councils and committees are encouraged to seek out, listen to and enact youth ideas in their program planning.

To date, 250,000 books have been distributed to children through programs sponsored by MSU Extension and its partnership with the Molina Foundation.



MSU Extension offers social, recreational and educational opportunities to connect military families with local resources and support, as well as predictable, safe and nurturing environments for military youth to unite with others facing the same challenges.

COMMUNITY FOOD SYSTEMS

The City of Flint and Genesee County are communities in significant need of activity that can support economic opportunities for low-income individuals, provide access to healthy foods, and develop innovative models and ideas around land use and community vitality. With high levels of obesity, limited access to healthy food, and 12,000 available vacant lots in Flint, the launching point for all local food efforts is improving access to healthy food, land, knowledge and resources. Urban agriculture, community gardening and nutrition education as a comprehensive approach to building community, improving public health, maintaining vacant and abandoned land, working with disenfranchised youth and empowering residents to make a difference in their neighborhoods is one of this community's solutions.

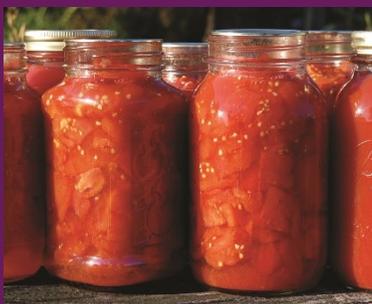
edible flint

MSU Extension, in partnership with funding from Ruth Mott Foundation, has directly supported the local food systems movement in Flint and Genesee County, with Community Food Systems staff as point of contact for the *edible flint* network and the broader Genesee Food Systems group. *edible flint* supports Flint residents in growing and accessing healthy food in order to reconnect with the land and each other. The work of *edible flint* is accomplished within work groups.

Access and Education—The Access and Education group conducted an in-depth assessment of convenience and grocery stores within the City of Flint, directed by the doctorate work of a MSUE Human/Community Nutrition and Dietetics student. 187 stores were assessed with a tool that covered 11 categories/63 items, with a maximum of 80 points possible. Most of the stores scored between 12—24. The data has been shared in community forums throughout Flint. The group seeks to increase understanding about how food choices affect health, and to advocate for policy change that will increase the availability and access of healthy food.

The Co-op—Several urban farmers now sell produce at the Flint Farmers' Market as independent businesses after belonging to the *edible flint* Co-op for a few years, now selling produce and food products to local restaurants and retail outlets. The Co-op workgroup provides a low risk training model for how to establish these individual food businesses to increase the presence and success of urban gardeners and farmers in Flint.

MSU Extension efforts in ensuring safe and secure food lead to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities viable.



Ruth Mott Foundation provides over \$116,000 to MSU Extension to support the urban agriculture/local food systems efforts in Genesee County.

In 2014, 300 garden kits were sold and distributed to county residents. Kits contained 10 types of vegetables transplants and 18 kinds of seeds for a standard sized garden and services such as tilling, soil testing, and compost delivery.

Community Food Systems, continued

Food Garden Tour—On July 30, 2014, the 6th annual Food Garden Tour highlighted the way the community is addressing a number of needs including: food access, education and skill building, youth engagement, creating new entrepreneurial opportunities, community building, and reuse of vacant land in our neighborhoods. More than 280 participants visited 16 different gardens across the City of Flint by bus or bike, followed by a community celebration that took place at the new Flint Farmers' Market including food, music and fellowship.

Garden Starters—The Garden Starters workgroup goal is to increase Flint's capacity to produce healthy food. In May 2014, 300 garden kits were sold and distributed to county residents at a Distribution Day and Community Garden Celebration at Salem Housing. The *edible flint* kits contained 10 types of vegetable transplants and 18 kinds of seeds for a standard sized garden, as well as services such as tilling, soil testing, and compost delivery.

The Garden Starters training classes focused on local food systems, organic and sustainable food gardening and pest management practices, soil health, composting, harvesting, food preservation, cross-cultural communications, and accessing land and resources for growing food.

Organizational Work Group—The Organizational Work Group is responsible for communications, partnership and evaluation to keep mission focused. The workgroup redesigned and updated the *edible flint* website (www.edibleflint.org) and created the first annual report.

Genesee Food Systems/Flint Food Hub

MSU Extension staff continue to convene and facilitate Genesee Food Systems/Flint Food Hub planning meetings to enhance community food systems and economic development, and to support the FoodWorks incubator kitchen at the Flint Farmers' Market, including its capacity to operate as a food hub. Food hubs are centrally located facilities with a business management structure facilitating the aggregation, storage, processing, distribution, and marketing of locally produced food products, providing wider access to institutional and retail markets for small to mid-sized producers, and increasing access of fresh healthy food for consumers.

FoodCorps MI National Service Program

MSU Extension staff provide administrative oversight to 6 service sites (3 in Detroit, 1 in Flint, 1 in Traverse City, and 1 in Sault Ste. Marie) and 10 service members and the FoodCorps Fellow position. MSU Extension staff work to weave FoodCorps into the statewide food systems work by creating opportunities for members to present at statewide events (Everybody Eats Conference, Good Food Charter Steering Committee and 2014 Good Food Summit).



Community Food Systems, continued

Michigan Fresh

Michigan Fresh helps people explore the State's bounty of fresh, locally grown fruits, vegetables, flowers and ornamentals. Informational bulletins, produced by MSU Extension staff, are available at www.msue.anr.msu.edu/program/info/mi_fresh, in the MSU Extension Genesee County office and at the MSU Extension informational booth at the Flint Farmers' Market. Bulletins include information on recommended varieties, storage, food safety, and preserving techniques for fruit and vegetables or for planting and maintaining your lawn and garden. The MSU Extension-created and produced Michigan Availability Guide is also available at these locations.

The MSU Product Center Food-Ag-Bio

The MSU Product Center assists county residents in developing products and businesses in the area of food, agriculture, natural resources, and the bio economy. The innovation counselor has special training to deliver these services to local residents. Business counseling is conducted on a one-on-one basis and may take place at the MSU Extension office or the client's home or business location. The assistance provided is tailored to meet the needs of the client and may include guidance in developing a business plan, navigating the regulatory maze, accessing the supply chain or seeking funding options. The innovation counselor also assists clients in accessing specialized services needed that are offered through Michigan State University such as feasibility studies, nutritional labeling and packaging assistance.

In Genesee County, 161 counseling sessions were completed with 28 local entrepreneurs in starting new businesses and expanding existing businesses. The partnership between MSU Extension and the MSU Product Center Food-Ag-Bio is providing support for entrepreneurs in supporting economic development across the region.

In 2014, 161 counseling sessions were completed with 28 entrepreneurs in Genesee County by MSU Product Center Innovation Counselors.



For several years, MSU Extension has worked to get healthful, Michigan-grown vegetables into more school lunches.

Ensuring Safe and Secure Food

When you support MSU Extension's efforts to enhance residents' access to an adequate supply of safe, affordable food, program participants will focus on food safety measures in the field and at harvest, learn proper food preparation and food preservation techniques, and bring community partners together to strengthen access to healthy food supplies. This leads to a healthy population, which in turn helps keep health care costs in check and our communities viable.

Cottage Food Law

From the farm to the kitchen table, food safety is an important issue. Foodborne illness outbreaks occur crossing all socioeconomic lines from production and consumption to preservation of foods. Foodborne illness costs the U.S. economy billions of dollars each year in lost productivity, hospitalization, long-term disability and even death. The Cottage Food Law took effect in July 2010, allowing home-processed foods to be sold to the public, emphasizing the need for food safety education.

MSU Extension Cottage Food Law workshops participants learned about preserving food and preparing safe food for public consumption. Food consumers can have increased confidence when buying food products sold by someone with an MSU Extension food safety certificate related to producing cottage foods.

Reducing foodborne illnesses

Food preservation is both a popular hobby and a small business opportunity, but people who preserve food without following scientifically proven food preservation techniques increase the risk of foodborne illness. In 2014, MSU Extension over 100 Genesee County residents about safe food practices through the Food Preservation classes and Cooking for Crowds workshop. Food Preservation demonstration style workshops participants learn about food preservation methods such as freezing, dehydrating, and canning with boiling water bath canner or pressure canner. Cooking for Crowds workshops are geared toward non-profit groups that prepare high volumes of food for their organization or for the public.

As a result of MSU Extension food safety programs, individuals now use safer food handling, preparation, storage and preservation techniques. This reduces medical expenses, reduces food recalls and contributes to the financial stability of food businesses.

Participants in MSU Extension's food preservation workshops reported:

- ◆ 97 percent said they will properly use processing techniques to safely can foods.
- ◆ 93 percent said they will select high-quality foods for preservation
- ◆ 89 percent said they gained knowledge on how properly preserve food.



Participants in MSU Extension Cottage Food Law workshops learn to preserve food and prepare safe food for public consumption.



For several years, MSU Extension has worked to get healthful, Michigan-grown vegetables into more school lunches.

ENSURING STRONG COMMUNITIES

Strengthening Michigan's financial capacity

When individuals and families in Michigan are financially healthy, it creates an environment for sustained community prosperity. MSU Extension's financial literacy and housing education programs help families and individuals at any stage of their lives make smart money decisions and work through the homeownership process. These courses help reduce mortgage defaults through counseling new homebuyers as well as homeowners going through the foreclosure process.

MSU Extension staff provided financial and homeownership education to over 50 Genesee County residents. As a result of the financial and homeownership education:

- » 84 percent pay their mortgage on time.
- » 80 percent now save money for home maintenance costs.
- » 86 percent maintained or increased their knowledge of predatory lending practices.
- » 54 percent of foreclosure clients were able to keep their homes.

Assessing financial health and recommending fiscal improvements for the future of Michigan's municipalities

As Michigan looks to rebound from recent fiscal difficulties and become stronger and more fiscally sound in the future, MSU Extension has been a valuable partner in educating the public as well as legislators.

Whether it is helping to explain the ramifications of Detroit's bankruptcy to the public or assisting legislators in understanding alternative sustainable funding options, MSU Extension specialist Eric Scorsone and other MSU Extension educators and specialists have served as a valuable resource of educational, unbiased information.

In the past year, Scorsone has served as an adviser or been a member of the Lansing Financial Health Team, the Flint Blue Ribbon Committee and the State Treasurer's Municipal Finance Reform Task Force, which all focused on assessing fiscal health and recommending changes to maintain or improve the financial future of Michigan and its cities.

As Michigan looks to rebound from recent fiscal difficulties and become stronger and more fiscally sound in the future, MSU Extension has been a valuable partner in educating the public as well as legislators.

MSU Extension helps youth and adults alike learn the skills they need to increase their savings, manage their spending avoid predatory lending and reduce mortgage defaults.



KEEPING PEOPLE HEALTHY

Fighting obesity through education

Michigan has the 11th highest adult obesity rate in the United States, according to the CDC. More than 30 percent of adults are obese, and an additional 35 percent are considered overweight. Nearly 80 percent of both adults and youth do not consume adequate amounts of fruits and vegetables.

MSU Extension delivers affordable, relevant, evidence-based education to serve the needs of adults, youth and families in urban and rural communities. Topic areas include: nutrition, physical activity, food safety and food resource management. Programs focus on helping participants gain the skills needed to buy and prepare nutritious, budget-friendly foods; increase their physical activity; breastfeed their babies and stretch their food dollars.

MSU Extension staff reached over 2,000 adults and young people across Genesee County through the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program-Education (SNAP-Ed) programming and the Expanded Food and Nutrition Education Program (EFNEP).

MSU Extension's SNAP-Ed and EFNEP programs include Project Fresh, Healthy Harvest workshops and Show Me Nutrition lessons geared toward youth.

Through the program outreach:

- » More than one-third of youth decreased their intake of sugary drinks.
- » Nearly one-third of youth increased their level of physical activity.
- » Nearly half of adults increased their daily vegetable and fruit consumption.
- » More than two-thirds of adults increased time spent being physically active.
- » More than two-thirds of adults reported improved ability to make their food dollars go further.

Cooking Matters for Adults

Cooking Matters is a nutrition education program where participants learn to eat healthy, cook and grocery shop on a limited budget. Participants gain skills and confidence to make healthy budget friendly meals for their family. Each week, participants receive take-home groceries. The class series also includes: participatory food preparation that provides cooking and food safety instruction, engaging nutrition activities and discussions, practice with food budgeting, interactive grocery store visit with a \$10 challenge, and recipe book.

Encouraging healthy behaviors helps reduce food and health care costs by helping prevent chronic health conditions and providing safe environments throughout a person's life span.

MSU Extension's Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program Education (SNAP-Ed) programs teach adults how to make the most of their food dollars, by developing skills such as menu planning, understanding recipes and keeping food safe.



MSU Extension reached more than 2,000 adults and young people across Genesee County through programming. Nearly one-third of youth increased their level of physical activity and more than two-thirds of adults increased time spent being physically active.

Keeping People Healthy, continued

Programs focus on helping participants gain the skills needed to buy and prepare nutritious, budget-friendly foods; increase their physical activity; breastfeed their babies and stretch their food dollars.

National Diabetes Prevention Program

Michigan ranks 15th in the nation for prevalence of diabetes, with an estimated 10 percent of Michigan adults aged 18 and older had been diagnosed with diabetes – about 758,300 people. An additional 250,200 Michigan adults are estimated to have diabetes but are currently undiagnosed.

Through the National Diabetes Prevention Program, MSU Extension helps participants to learn ways to change their lifestyles and improve their health. A trained lifestyle coach leads 16 core group sessions weekly. Participants learn how to make modest lifestyle changes. Groups then meet monthly for six post-core sessions. The program provides participants with both a lifestyle coach and a valuable support system.

Chronic Disease Self-Management (PATH)

The prevalence of chronic disease is high in Michigan. Chronic diseases are among the most prevalent, costly, and preventable of all health issues. Participants of MSU Extension PATH (Personal Action Toward Health) programs report improved symptom management including decreased worry, decreased fearfulness about future health, and fewer frustrations about health problems. At the end of the series, PATH participants show decreased fatigue, decreased shortness of breath, and decreased self-reported pain. Other program benefits show increased physical activity and improved communication with physicians. PATH is an evidenced-based, 6-week program that delivers health information to empower people to assume an active role in managing their chronic conditions.

My Way to Wellness

MSU Extension's My Way to Wellness program is an opportunity for individuals to learn through self-paced learning modules that include: personal goal-setting, nutritional needs and physical activity, building a healthy MyPlate, energy, picking the best portions, healthy habits for a healthy life and more. Because My Way to Wellness is offered online, the program is easy to accommodate to any schedule. Participants can complete the program at ease in the comfort of their own personal space.



Through the National Diabetes Prevention Program, MSU Extension helps participants to learn ways to change their lifestyles and improve their health.



SUPPORTING FOOD AND AGRICULTURE

Michigan agriculture continues to be a growing segment of the state's economy. The production of commercial food and nonfood agricultural operations is growing rapidly. The number of households raising a portion of their own food and raising livestock or gardening for pleasure or relaxation continues to increase. When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn profitable and efficient business and production practices. Participants also learn how to optimize and reduce the use of pesticides and fertilizers, and how to conserve and protect water resources. This education leads to better use of time, money and human capital, and helps retain and create agricultural jobs. These measures strengthen Michigan's economy while connecting farmers to local food opportunities and global markets. In this way you help MSU Extension encourage growth in a sustainable and prosperous Michigan food and agriculture system.

Bridging the gap between farm to fork

Breakfast on the Farm (BOTF) bridges the gap between Michigan's farmers and consumers who often have little idea where the food on their plates comes from. BOTF invites the public to enjoy a delicious farm-fresh breakfast on a working farm and educates them on the farm-to-fork process. BOTF is an open door for the community to learn about modern food production and build trust with and appreciation for local farmers. An online survey showed that 88 percent of participants told others they should attend a BOTF event.

In 2014, MSU Extension BOTF staff provided similar educational messages and activities as provided at a BOTF in the Agriculture Education Tent at the Swartz Creek Hometown Days Festival. Over 2,000 Genesee County residents were provided information to increase knowledge and understanding of agriculture.

Integrated Pest Management (IPM) Academy

IPM is a two-day program covering the fundamentals of IPM and identifying resources and technology for sustainable agricultural practitioners. This program is a collaboration between MSU Extension field-based staff and campus specialists. Timely topics such as extreme weather effects or newly introduced pests are identified and featured. Academy participants gain a solid foundation in sustainable pest management, knowledge of MSU and its partners' resources, and the ability to share this knowledge with their farm clientele. The Academy's long term goal is to increase sustainable agriculture through expanded awareness and adoption of IPM strategies that improve crop efficiency, minimize pesticide use and enhance environmental quality.

When you support MSU Extension, you help participants learn profitable and efficient business and production practices.

Homeowner and commercial soil test kits as well as additional

publications on a wide variety of topics within MSU Extension's

expertise are

available at shop.msu.edu (click the MSU

Extension Bookstore link on the top right).

These resources are also available at the MSU Extension Genesee County office.



Breakfast on the Farm (BOTF) bridges the gap between Michigan's farmers and consumers who often have little idea where the food on their plates comes from.

Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

Fighting back against emerging pests

The spotted wing drosophila and the brown marmorated stink bug are two invasive pests that pose the biggest threats to Michigan's fruit production. Michigan growers will likely have to implement new management programs to control these pests from harming their fruit crop.

The spotted wing drosophila has an optimal developing temperature of 65 to 70 degrees Fahrenheit, normal conditions during a Michigan growing season. This makes early detection information vital to activate pest management programs that prevent rapid population increases and potential infestations.

MSU Extension partners with farmers and statewide agencies to monitor these pests. Working together to eliminate these invasive species will be essential to lessen the loss of the Michigan tree fruit crops in the future.

Growers need to monitor for both the spotted wing drosophila and the brown marmorated stink bug because:

- » Spotted wing drosophila feed upon and lay eggs in ripe fruit.
- » Spotted wing drosophila can produce many generations in a relatively short amount of time.
- » The brown marmorated stink bug has a host range of more than 300 known plants, including fruits grown in Michigan.
- » In other states, brown marmorated stink bug populations reached high numbers causing substantial damage in tree fruits.

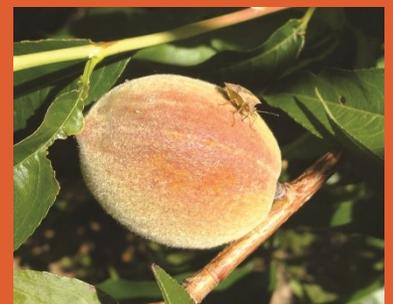
Showing lawmakers the value of composting

Composting animal mortalities is a regular part of work for today's farm operators. However, municipalities rarely use this method despite its being a good solution to disposing of animal carcasses.

Proper animal composting works well as a way to deal with road kill, as an alternative disposal method for animal control units and as a disaster response when livestock and other animal mortalities require disposal. Composting is a dynamic process, enclosing an animal carcass in a mixture of plant or fiber-rich materials such as wood chips or used compost. Microorganisms in the mixture use moisture, carbon and oxygen to break down the carcass tissues while releasing heat that kills harmful bacteria.

Working together to eliminate these invasive species will be essential to lessen the loss of the Michigan tree fruit crops in the future.

The brown marmorated stink bug has a host range of more than 300 known plants, including fruits grown in Michigan.



Supporting Food and Agriculture, continued

- » During the 2014 Ag Expo, MSU researchers provided a demonstration for local municipality representatives of animal mortality composting, recommending it as a safe, biosecure and economical method of road-kill disposal.
- » Composting is an effective and safe way to deal with all animal mortalities, regardless of species.
- » Composting works well on farms and can be used by municipalities for road kill or for animal control centers.
- » Composting is a viable solution for disaster relief response teams in situations involving a high number of animal mortalities.

Lawn and Garden Hotline

MSU Extension's Consumer Horticulture team and trained Genesee County Master Gardener Volunteers are dedicated in helping answer any home lawn and garden questions. The Lawn and Garden Hotline is 1-888-MSUE4MI (1-888-678-3464). MSU Extension staff and volunteers are available weekdays 9:00 am—12:00 pm and 1:00 pm—5:00 pm during the growing season (April-September). During the off season (October-March) the Hotline is available weekdays 9:00 am—12:00 pm. Residents can also receive valuable information and sign up for MSU Extension Home Gardening news at migarden.msu.edu.

Genesee County Plant and Pest Hotline

The Genesee County Master Gardener Volunteers provide the Plant and Pest Hotline and counter service for residents. The Plant and Pest Hotline is 1-810-244-8548. Master Gardener Volunteers are available 9:00 am—12:00 pm Monday, Wednesday and Friday during the growing season (April-September) and Friday 9:00 am—12:00 pm during the off season (October-March).

Genesee County Master Gardener Association

The Master Gardeners of Genesee County are a volunteer group dedicated to learning about gardening and horticulture and sharing acquired knowledge with the people of Genesee County. They encourage horticulture and gardening which through adding beauty improved the quality of the community's environment.

There are currently 150 members of the Genesee County Master Gardener Association. They have assisted 823 residents through either phone contact or face-to-face interaction. They have also conducted outreach to 296 residents through community events.

Proper animal composting works well as a way to deal with road kill, as an alternative disposal method for animal control units and as a disaster response when livestock and other animal mortalities require disposal.

Genesee County Master Gardeners have assisted 823 residents through the Plant and Pest Hotline and counter service. They have also conducted outreach to 296 residents through community events.



During the 2014 Ag Expo, MSU researchers provided a demonstration for local municipality representatives of animal mortality composting.



MI SPARTAN IMPACT

MSU works side by side for a stronger Michigan.



ENROLLED MICHIGAN STUDENTS

766



ENROLLED MEDICAL STUDENTS

68



ALUMNI RESIDING IN COUNTY

7,473



SPENDING WITH LOCAL BUSINESSES

\$3,837,426



TOTAL ECONOMIC IMPACT*

\$84,154,547



FINANCIAL AID DISBURSED

\$6,314,843



4-H YOUTH

3,243



4-H VOLUNTEERS

101



RESIDENTS AND INTERNS

409

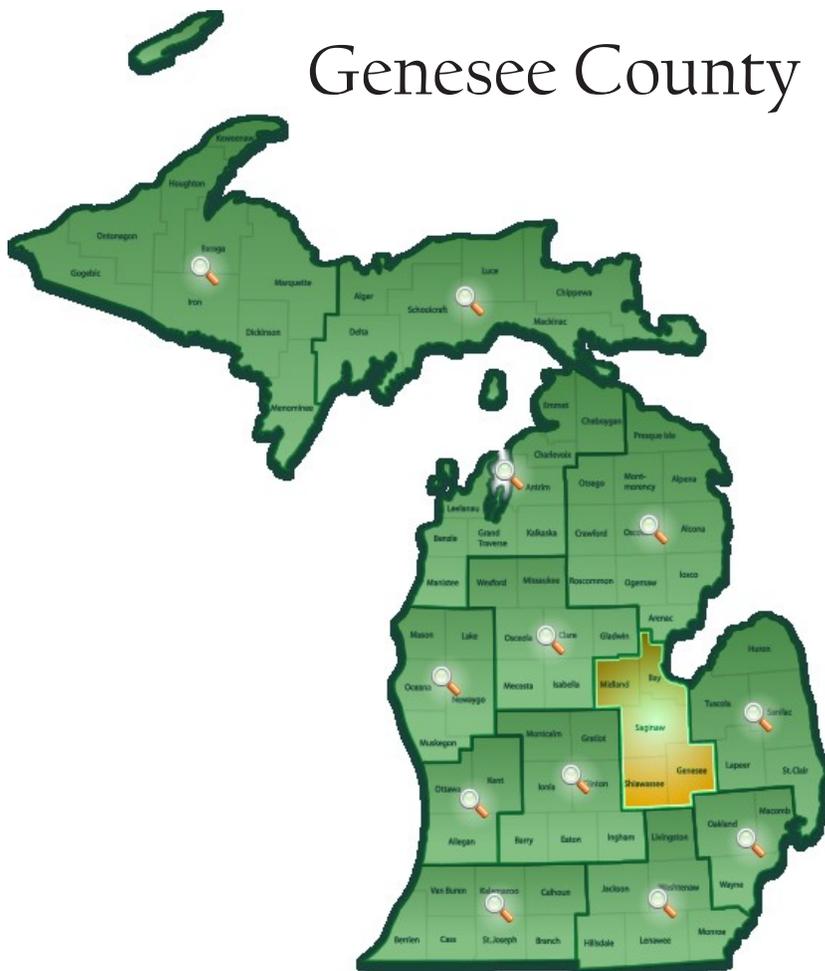


EMPLOYEES

69

*Data is from an independent study by the Anderson Economic Group

Genesee County



For additional information visit:

<http://mispartanimpact.msu.edu/>

<http://msue.anr.msu.edu/>

MICHIGAN STATE UNIVERSITY | Extension

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